

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Makes Appointments to Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has appointed Walter B. Dennis of Natchez, Roy Thigpen of Louin, Catherine C. Shropshire of Terry, and Thomas B. Wood of Tupelo to the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory for a term that is at the pleasure of the Governor.

“I look forward to the work that will be accomplished by the members of this board,” said Governor Ronnie Musgrove. “Each appointee brings a different characteristic that will enhance the effectiveness of the Institute, and their work will benefit one of Mississippi’s greatest natural resources.”

Dennis is the owner and president of Walter Dennis & Associates, Inc. where he is a consulting forester. Dennis is also a wildlife biologist, an associate real estate broker and also a member of the Mississippi Forestry Association, the Wildlife Society, and Mississippi Association of Realtors. He worked for International Paper for more than 15 years. He is married to Marion Louise Lipp. He has six children.

Thigpen is currently a forest landowner and tree farmer. His past employment includes being the Executive Director for Criminal Justice Planning/Public Safety Planning where he led the Governor’s Highway Safety Program, Justice programs, and Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training. Thigpen was the recipient of the State Health Officer’s Award in 1991 and was recognized for 30 years of Public Service. Thigpen is married to Julia Williams Thigpen and has three children.

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Shropshire currently serves as executive director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. Prior to her position, she served as coordinator of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for over 22 years. She received her Ph.D. in Forest Resources from Mississippi State University. She is a member of the Wildlife Society and the American Society of Mammologists. She and her husband, Ryland Thomas Shropshire, have two children, Jan Shropshire Harper and Jill Shropshire.

Wood is the owner and partner of Landtree, LLC where he is a consulting forester and involved in the real estate business. He is currently the chairman of the Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters. Wood served in the Army as a 1st Lieutenant. He retired after 35 years of service to the Mead Westvaco Corporation. He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters (for 45 years) and the Tupelo Rotary Club. Wood is married to Marty Jane Wood, and he has three children.

The duties and responsibilities of the board include to facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide forest resource inventory necessary for a sustainable forest-based economy; analyze and publish a detailed report of Mississippi's forest resource inventory by January 1, 2005; and conduct and publish data for subsequent and supporting inventories of forest resources in the years following the initial full inventory.

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